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Dear Bud:

Thanks for your letter dated 20 November 1987 and the enclosures.

My research on Oswald at Keesler has focused upon two areas, his student records maintained by the Air Force and the testimony of fellow Marine and student Daniel Patrick Powers. A synopsis follows.

Earlier this year I again took up an interest in a previously unpublished document about which I wanted to do an article for Jerry Rose's Third Decade. The document which I had obtained from the Document Branch at Keesler AFB in 1977 was a copy of Oswalds student record, a TTAF Form 20. One of the things about this document which interested me was the Block 5 information to the effect that Oswald had been attached to a Marine reserve unit in Gulfport, Mississippi. During or after his training was what I wanted to know. The answer finally came nearly ten years later.

In October 1987 the Marine Corps finally told me that Oswalds association with the reserve unit was strickly an administrative one in that the unit simply maintained Oswalds records while he attended school at Keesler. It seemed logical but why the big stall and why had this information never come to light before? A request for more information about Oswalds association with the reserve unit and what records it may have kept on him went ignored untill an FOIA request was filed. Though the Marine Corps has acknowledged receipt of my request, to date they have neither complied nor issued a denial which is in open violation of Federal law. The Air Force also now acts asthough it has never heard of the document which they gave me back in 1977. When requested to send me a copy of the student records of all six Marines including Oswald, they first denied that such existed and then refered the matter to Randolph AFB who is making inquiries of the National Personnel Records Center at St. Louis. To date nothing else has come from them.

My efforts with Daniel Patrick Powers have brought about the same amount of success. Powers was one of the six Marines in the group with which Oswald traveled from the Naval Technical Training Center, Jacksonville to the 3380 Technical Training Group at Keesler AFB, Mississippi in 1957. In May 1964. Powers appeared as a witness before the Warren Commission during which time he read into the record, portions of his travel

orders. Nothing unusual appears here untill you check the information contained in his travel orders with the information contained in the " official " military service record of Oswald as published by the Government. Powers orders state that all six Marines reported to the 3383rd Student Squadron for course AB 27037 at the completion of which they were awarded MOS 6747. However, the published service records state that all the men in Oswalds group reported to the 3386th Student Squadron for course AB 27330 after which they received a MOS 6741! The question is why does a set of travel orders issued in 1957 differ from the Governments report issued in 1964?

The above has led to an FOIA request of the Air Force in which I have asked for a description of the two training courses and of the training mission of the two Student Squadrons. To date, there has been no denial or compliance regarding my request.

An attempt to track Daniel Powers has led to the Public School System of Gustine, California and seemingly dead ended there unless the Post Office and Feds are again playing with my mail. I have written to Paul Hoch and asked that he try to follow up on this at his end but nothing yet. I feel that it is important that Powers be confronted with this matter and a statement be taken from him.

We need to know why the travel orders are different from the official record and the character of the training Squadrons and courses at Keesler and the MOS codes which have apparently now been phased out according to a local Marine recruiter. Career Field 27 which appears on the TTAF Form 20 has also been phased out. We need to know what was contained in both the Keesler file and the Marine reserve unit file on Oswald. That there was an Oswald double I believe is without question but how far back it went is still unanswered.

If you or any of your people can assist in this effort I believe it would benefit the whole Community and help to fill in some of the many gaps which the Government seems to prefer left open.

Sincerely,

Emory L. Brown, Jr.

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